

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM
FISCAL YEAR 2011**

Instructions

1. Please complete the entire form. **All fields are required.**
2. Please do not **bold**, underline, or *italicize* responses.
3. Request forms must be submitted as a Word document.
4. All completed request forms and any supplemental materials must be submitted via email to:
Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov
5. Please do not send more than one request per email.
6. All completed request forms must be submitted no later than **Friday, February 26, 2010.**
7. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your request within 48 hours of submission, please contact Stephanie Cappa in Congressman Blumenauer's Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-4811.

PLEASE NOTE: All appropriations requests submitted to Congressman Blumenauer's office will be made public on his website, as required by the House Committee on Appropriations.

Project Details

1. Project title:

Youth Development Collaboration Initiative - Closing the Achievement Gap

2. Organization name and address (the recipient of the funds):

Self Enhancement, Inc.
3920 North Kerby Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97227-1255

3. Contact information

a. Project's primary contact:

Tony L. Hopson, Sr., President & CEO

b. Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:

503-249-1721/ [REDACTED]

c. Email Address:

tonyh@selfenhancement.org

d. Project location (if different than organization's address):

Same as organization address

4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.

Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI) is a nationally-recognized youth development organization supporting at-risk youth in the Northeast side of Portland, Oregon. Its core service offerings include a holistic approach and a continuum of services with a focus on long-term mentoring. The agency currently serves 1,022 youth in its core programs and more than 2,500 youth across all programs, with an annual operating budget of \$12.5 million and 120 employees. Students served are very high risk (e.g., 85% FRL, 97% African-

American (approx ~11% of all African American students in Portland Public Schools), 73% single parent household, 36% gang affected, 30% have an incarcerated parent or sibling). Its track record is truly remarkable: Over the past 9 years, SEI's on-time graduation rate has been 97%. 100% of students have graduated high school in 2008 and 2009, and 97% are on track to graduate in 2010. On average, 85% go on for post-secondary education. These successes are in an urban school district where the graduation rate for all students is approximately 55% (even lower for African American youth). Core program elements include:

In-School Program: While class is in session, full-time, paid service coordinators provide academic guidance and monitor each student's scholastic achievement, attendance, and behavior. Coordinators mentor and advocate for students while setting individual goals. SEI serves 11 Portland Public Schools. 747 students served in FY 09.

After-School Program: For grades 2-12, provides diverse opportunities for kids to focus on academic skill building, the arts, technology, health, recreation, sports and more. 747 students served in FY 09.

The Summer Program: Our six-week summer program engages hundreds of students (grades 2-12) in academic achievement, music, athletics, performing arts, internships, and career exploration. 755 students served in FY 09.

Post High School Support: We help high school students go further by helping them study and prepare for college entrance exams, as well as offering financial aid workshops, career exposure and job interview skills classes. 277 students served in FY 09.

Parent involvement: Provides case management, support and networking to promote strong parental and family participation in their child's life. SEI offers family resource services such as counseling, parenting classes, energy assistance and housing programs, and other useful training.

What sets SEI apart from other youth development organizations in achieving this ambitious vision for underserved, African-American youth are the intensity, continuity and breadth inherent in the four core pillars of our service model. These pillars are:

- A relationship model that enables SEI to create enduring and intensive relationships with children, youth and their families.
- A culture of success upheld by a shared set of behavioral expectations among children, youth and adults (staff).
- A comprehensive approach from in-school support, to after-school, summer, post-high school and parental services.
- A continuum of services to support youth between 2nd grade and age 25; recognizing that risk persists and becomes more complex as children socially and emotionally develop.

We stand by these pillars because we believe that intensity, continuity and breadth they provide are absolutely essential to reaching our medium term goal that SEI students will graduate high school ready for adulthood, and our long term goal that SEI students will become positive contributing citizens.

5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?

Self Enhancement is a non-profit 501c(3)

6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?

US Department of Education – Fund for Improvement of Education (FIE) or Institute for Education Services

Or

LHHS, US Dept. of Health and Human Services – Social Service discretionary account.

7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (no more than 500 words).

This project focuses on expanding services that have proven success in closing the achievement gap. SEI core program expansion in Portland will include:

- Serving more students in Portland Public Schools where SEI already has a presence.
- Conduct feasibility to expand to other high schools to reach more at risk African-American youth.
- Increase the number of students served through core programs to attain a “tipping point” positively influencing overall graduation rates for Portland Public Schools.
- Creation of a Portland Youth Development Collaborative to share best practices with other agencies and non-profit organizations who work with at risk youth designed to positively influence educational and economic outcomes for the entire state of Oregon.

SEI has a long history of collaborating successfully with other nonprofit and public agencies. SEI is the lead agency in the current SUN Contract, and assumed responsibility for the anti-poverty program when AMA moved out of direct services. SEI was a partner in the Northeast Service Federation along with Volunteers of America, Portland House of Umoja, Center for Community Mental Health, and the NE Coalition of Neighborhoods to provide youth gang transition services. SEI’s Family Enhancement program works closely with DHS to help keep kids out of foster care. SEI worked closely with OCHA to diffuse ethnic hostility between African Americans and Latinos on the Jefferson High School campus. SEI’s Domestic Violence program collaborates with OHSU, Bradley Angle House, DVERT and WomenStrength. Because SEI’s primary value is helping youth succeed, we are open to finding solutions with whatever the best partner(s) may be for a situation.

As the largest and most stable organization providing targeted youth development services in Oregon, SEI is the current provider of all SUN culturally specific services to African Americans and has established organizational relationships with Multnomah County DCHS, Portland Public Schools and many nonprofit social service agencies. SEI also contracts with Multnomah County Community Justice and Oregon Department of Human Services to provide Culturally Specific services to African American youth and their families, and referral to these programs is available to clients through the SUN Service System.

8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

SEI's long-term goal is to be a part of the solution and included in the budget -- as a line item -- with Portland Public Schools and the state of Oregon. SEI's success is unmatched relative to high school graduation rates and post-secondary education. Value-added components include decreased criminality, teenage pregnancies, and substance abuse among at-risk youth. These successes add up to long-term gains for the greater community: well-educated youth are prime candidates for the job market and positive contributing citizens are less likely to draw on public safety net programs. SEI is breaking the cycle of poverty that has trapped communities of color for decades by shifting the societal paradigm, supporting and empowering youth to achieve and succeed long-term.

On-time high school graduation remains elusive throughout America's K-12 education system, especially for low-income and minority youth. In the United States today:

- Nationally only ~75% of 9th graders will graduate from high school in five years
- Only 51% of African American students graduate from high school.

This situation has profound implications for our society and democracy at large. A high school dropout is:

- 4X as likely to be unemployed as a college graduate is.
- Will earn nearly 60% less than her college-educated counterpart
- Is 2.5X more likely to be arrested than a high school graduate (Note: 82% of the inmates in the criminal justice system are dropouts)
- Myriad cost-benefit analyses have demonstrated the financial savings to state and federal government from successful prevention programs targeting at-risk youth, versus incarceration and public safety costs.
- Dropouts contribute far less in federal, state and local taxes than they will receive in cash benefits, in-kind transfers and correctional costs. This imposes a net fiscal burden on the rest of society. By contrast, those high school diplomas contribute major fiscal benefits over their lifetimes -- including the payment of payroll, federal, and state income taxes -- which is estimated to amount to more than \$250,000 per graduated student (\$815,000 per college graduate).

For African Americans, achievement gaps have negative implications that will grow over time for our economy as diminished skills and performance in the labor force reduce national income and economic growth.

- Closing the racial achievement gap with black and Latino students' performance reaching that of white students in 1998 would have positively impacted the GDP between \$310 billion and \$525 billion higher.
- If there was no racial achievement gap, in 2008 US earnings alone would be \$120 billion to \$160 billion higher.

SEI's best-practices approach to successful collaboration includes an appropriate and achievable project with a clear mission, commitment of the leadership of all partners, mutual trust and respect, a win-win project which benefits all partners, clear responsibilities and decision making process, open communications, a commitment to work to make the collaboration succeed, and the willingness to compromise and be flexible.

Self Enhancement employs 120 full-time staff and 150 part-time staff year-round. Part-time staff increases to approximately 200 positions during the summer. Self Enhancement will add 3 new coordinator positions to support 110 new students as part of program growth. Because of the current economic crisis, funding sources have decreased. This allocation will ensure that Self Enhancement meets budget for planned growth and is not forced to eliminate positions.

As it applies to program participants it is difficult to address how many jobs are created, but the over 1,000 students we serve annually go on to graduate from high school and college, or to find careers in the working world. In 2009, 97% of students who completed the SEI core program achieved two-years of post-secondary education (90%) or two-years of living wage employment (7%). These successful young people may have dropped out of school or been chronically unemployed if they did not have access to Self Enhancement programs.

9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?

Yes

9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

FY09 = \$381,000	US Department of Education – Fund for Improvement of Education (FIE)
FY10 = \$525,000	US Department of Education – Fund for Improvement of Education (FIE)

Funding Details

10. Amount requested for this project:

\$1,000,000

11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

Project budget for Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011)

Designated for programming

Compensation	\$521,577
Program supplies	\$17,810
Activities & events	\$43,114
Transportation	\$36,027
Professional services	\$32,945
Direct client support	\$53,979
Employee development	\$4,030
Travel & entertainment	\$983
Printing & outside copying	\$962
Communication	\$5,162
Facilities	\$34,253
Depreciation	\$19,243
Fundraising	\$37,058
General administration	<u>\$192,857</u>

\$1,000,000

12. What is the total cost of the project?

\$7,741,093

13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?

Yes the project is scalable. If the full amount requested cannot be provided, SEI will use any funds that are provided to increase provision of services and further funding will be sought in future years.

14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)

Any required nonfederal match will be provided.

15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.

Carole Smith, Portland Public Schools

Ted Wheeler, County Chair

John Kalafatas, Edna McConnell Clark Foundation

Please return this form no later than Friday, February 26, 2010 via email to:

Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov

Washington, D.C. Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Stephanie Cappa, 202-225-4811, Stephanie.Cappa@mail.house.gov

Oregon Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, 503-231-2300, Sarah.Masterson@mail.house.gov